

Julian To Address Forum Monday

THIS WEEK

Beware of Lease Hounds; They'll Fleece You

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

OIL developments in and around Torrance have attracted to the community scores of reputable oil men and just as many whose reputations might not bear too close scrutiny.

The fever for drilling, and drilling at once, is at its height.

So a few words of counsel—a frank discussion of the situation as it affects property owners—is not amiss.

LEASE HOUNDS, purporting to represent "big companies, are active. They offer fabulous bonuses, high percentages of oil, and highly attractive lease generally.

Some of these individuals represent nobody but themselves. Their scheme is to promise a lot, tie up land, and then peddle their options to companies who really are in the business of putting down oil wells.

Property owners should insist on knowing who is trying to lease their land, should insist on seeing the credentials of every person who tries to option or lease.

THE reputable oil companies are dealing, for the greater part, through local real estate men. The owner of land will do well to trust local men, rather than pin too much faith in lease hounds who are seeking to capitalize on a condition at the expense of property owners.

Follow these rules:

Make strangers come out in the open so that you'll know with whom you are dealing.

IT is only natural, of course, for the owner of a small piece of ground to seek a lease to which he is an independent party. For, on the face of things, such a lease, looks more profitable.

But is it more profitable, when close drilling will rob the wealth from the earth in a short time and eventually bring about an area of dead wells?

COMMUNITY leases are advisable in districts where land is held in small parcels. It is advisable from the standpoint of the land owner, who will receive his royalties over a longer period. It is advantageous to the country from the standpoint of conservation of a rich natural resource.

The people of Torrance should determine to stick together for large community leases.

Else the oil development may wipe Lomita off the face of the map, steal all the oil out of the ground, and destroy the beauty of a wonderful valley.

Some of the land in Lomita is held by men and women of Torrance. The same plea for large leases goes for them, too.

WE aren't preaching large leases from the standpoint of a nauseating sentimentalist, either. From the standpoint of cold dollars and cents return to property owners, community leases are better than lot leases.

Spreading income over a longer period, by preventing close drilling and resultant draining of a field, they eventually bring more money to the property owner than smaller leases.

SCORES of owners of lots on Signal Hill today are bemoaning the fact that the wells on their land are showing alarming signs of going dry. Gas pressure in the spectacular field is decreasing daily.

WHY IS IT THAT THE BIG OPERATORS OF THE BIG FIELDS ARE LEASING LAND WITH SHORT DRILLING CLAUSES IN THE FIELD HERE?

It is because the circus fields have been overdeveloped and the companies are looking for new fields in which to set up their rigs and drill.

Let's not make the mistake that was made on Signal Hill.

If you own property that you wish to lease, consult some reputable local real estate concern.

Don't sew up your land on dollar options to strangers. If you want to sew it up at all, deal with somebody you know.

PROSPECTS for close drilling in Lomita are alarming. South of the present scene of intensive operations land is divided up into small fractions of an acre. City-lot drilling, if the field develops well, may bring in more money for the first few months of production, but it will reduce the gas pressure and drain the oil structure in a short time. Witness the results at Signal Hill and Santa Fe Springs.

Report on Purchase Of Water Company Is Delayed a Week

The committee of the Chamber of Commerce which was instructed to confer with officers of the water company for the purpose of opening negotiations for the possible purchase of the company's property by the city reported Tuesday that their investigation has not progressed far enough to warrant a report. It is expected that the committee will report next Tuesday afternoon.

Torrance Herald

NINTH YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AUGUST 3, 1923

NO. 31

NEW GUSHER LEADS FIELD

Fiesta Breaks All Records

Thousands Spend Pleasant Hours And Plenty Cash

Thirty Automobiles Sold in Two Days as All Previous Attendance Marks Are Licked to Frazzle

MERCHANTS WEARING OLD SMILE

Exposition Best Ever, Say Exhibitors as Crowds See Shows and Lug Home Lots of Souvenirs

All records for Fiesta attendance, for money spent, and the resultant satisfaction to exhibitors, showmen and Fiesta promoters, went scurrying into the limbo of the has-beens this week, when the biggest crowd that ever attended the annual Torrance event spent the most money that ever was spent at a Torrance Fiesta, bought the most automobiles ever purchased at an automobile show here, and brought out the widest Fiesta-tide smiles that ever graced the faces of local merchants whose wares are on display.

Any talk of the Fiesta this year must be done in superlatives, for every previous record set by any Fiesta has been shoved to the rear by the Legion affair this year.

Largest Crowd

The largest crowd ever attended the opening on Tuesday night.

The largest crowd that ever attended any Fiesta on any night was on hand Wednesday after the dishes were washed, and it is safe to predict that still larger crowds will throng the midway, the commercial tent and the automobile show area on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

The automobile exhibitors are wearing the smile that refuses to come off. Thirty automobiles had been sold in the automobile tent up to Wednesday night. The total value of these cars is nearly \$25,000.

Merchants Pleased

Exhibitors in the exposition tent are delighted with the manner in which this part of the Fiesta is being conducted this year.

The T. A. Carlton system of advertising each exhibit from the runway, on which an orchestra plays most of the time, has proven one of the best features of the entire event. The introduction of entertainment into the exposition tent has brought and kept a goodly portion of the crowd inside at all times. In appreciation of the excellent manner in which the various exhibits are advertised from the runway by Mrs. Carlton, merchants are giving away valuable presents every night.

Shows Well Attended

"At no Fiesta before," said Mr. Paige, the grocer, "has the commercial section been so well handled. I am delighted with the success we are making."

Other exhibitors expressed the same opinion with unanimity. T. A. Carlton reported excellent attendance at all of the shows. And a look at the crowds carrying hams, bacon, candy, dolls, clocks, and other merchandise, proves that the concessions are doing their share of business. One Jap needed a truck to haul away his souvenirs.

Men of the Legion have been faithfully on the job, taking tickets, looking after emergency problems that always arise, and, with the help of ladies who volunteered, disposing of opportunities for someone to get a Ford coupe real cheap.

Whatever misgivings pessimists may have entertained over the ability of the Legion to put on a successful Fiesta have gone glimmering, along with other famous lost hopes like the Ford peace ship, Jess Willard's attempt to come back, and the guy who tried to find the gas leak with a match.

The Legion men tackled the job seriously. They are seeing it through successfully. And what credit Torrance gets for the best Fiesta in the history of the city goes to Commander Ross and his hard-working cohorts.

SIX MORE WELLS WILL SOON SWELL FIELD'S PRODUCTION; FOUR WAIT FOR SHUTOFF O.K.

Substantial increase in the production of the Torrance field may be expected within the next ten days, when four wells now standing censored will be brought in.

Hub Smith No. 2, on Carson street, ought to be on production shortly. The crew was waiting for an O. K. on water shutoff late this week.

Torrance No. 8 on the Chanslor Canfield lease on the old Redondo road, across from the Midway Northern producer, was likewise waiting for an official O. K. This well was cemented at 3223 feet. If the contention of the Santa Fe that the contentment of the Santa Fe at the Midway Northern passed up an oil sand is substantiated, all wells in this rapidly developing district will be cemented at around 3200 feet.

Torrance No. 9, on the south side of Carson street, offsetting Smith No. 2, was cemented off this week. After two futile efforts to get a successful water shutoff on Torrance No. 7, east of Getty's well, the C. M. O. drilled deeper and re-cemented this week.

Successful Fishing

The Shedd well of the Superior Oil company, at Carson and Cedar streets, was delayed this week by a small fishing job. Drilling has

been resumed, however, and the crew will try for a water shutoff shortly. The hole has now reached a depth of slightly more than 3200 feet.

The U. S. Royalty well, near 216th street, is down better than 3100 feet, and preparations are being made to cement off soon.

The Chanslor Canfield Torrance No. 12, on 216th street, will be spudded in within ten days, the company announced this week. The Southern California Midway Petroleum well, on 216th street, was spudded in last Saturday.

Drilling Again

Having skidded the rig on Osborne No. 1, which is on 216th street east of the Chanslor Canfield's producer, Torrance No. 6, the Superior Oil company has spudded in again.

Torrance No. 6 continued to flow between 400 and 500 barrels all week of high gravity oil. The excellence of the crude brought in in this northern area is speeding the Keck crews to reach the sands.

Standard's Torrance No. 4 is down 2000 feet, and the crew is putting in 15 1/2-inch casing. The same casing is going down at 1500 feet on Standard's Keck No. 4, which was spudded in last week.

TELLS GADEKY HE WILL BE ON HAND SURE

C. of C. Will Formally Welcome New Industry

RUSH PLANT PLAN

Engineers Are Busy on Draft of Refinery

C. C. Julian will be in Torrance for the Forum meeting Monday night. This is in accordance with his acceptance of the invitation extended him by the directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. He reassured Harry L. Gadeky this week that he would be present.

The famous oil producer and refinery promoter was delighted to receive the invitation and grinned all over with pleasure when Harry Gadeky told him that "Torrance is standing behind you 100 per cent."

Julian will speak at the meeting, although, as he says himself, he is "no speechmaker, but a good talker."

A dinner will precede the meeting. Business men and members of the Chamber of Commerce at this dinner will formally welcome Julian as the head of a new Torrance industry.

Financing of Julian's \$5,000,000 refinery is going forward with unabated success, and was spurred this week when the state granted him permission to sell stock. The promoter's office still takes in between \$50,000 and \$75,000 a day. In the first two weeks a million and a half was received by Julian and his associates.

Men of the Legion are hurrying plans for the first unit of the Julian refinery, which will be constructed on the 231 acres which Julian purchased from the Dominguez Land corporation.

BLDG. PERMITS FOR JULY ARE OVER \$100,000

Total for First Seven Months of Year Is \$1,158,380

Mounting well above the million-dollar mark, Torrance building permits for 1923 were increased during July by \$106,375.

The total for the first seven months of the year is \$1,158,380—a new high record for Torrance, and one that many cities much larger would be proud to boast.

It is interesting to note that the permits for July in Redondo were only about \$50,000, less than half the Torrance total.

Permits for the past week included the following: J. W. Schmidt for storage and warehouse on lot 17, block 1, to cost \$3,300; W. T. Barton, contractor, F. D. Murray for frame and stucco dwelling at 2075 and 2077 Redondo boulevard to cost \$4,000; Brewer Construction company, contractor, P. H. Hall for three-room bungalow at 1916 Gramercy, to cost \$500. Mrs. Chase for four-room dwelling rear of 2118 Carson street, to cost \$2,000; G. Mowry, contractor, Twenty-three permits were issued in July.

Permits for the year will reach close to \$2,000,000, it is expected.

C. OF C. BUYS FLAG

On all gala occasions and holidays the Chamber of Commerce will fly Old Glory. The board of directors of the chamber Tuesday instructed Secretary Harry L. Gadeky to buy a flag.

In another column the Lomita Filling Station advertises gas at 17c per gallon. In view of an expected cut in the wholesale price of gas, Mr. Smith states that the price of gas at his station will be cut accordingly.

Midway Northern Makes 1400 Bbls. In Pinched Flow

Producer on Old Redondo Road Spurs Construction of Derricks and Arrival of Machinery

WILL SPUD IN EIGHT WELLS SOON

Chanslor Canfield Takes Out Permits to Build Four Derricks, and Two Are Already Up

Producing more oil than any well in the entire field, the Midway Northern well on the old Redondo road was brought in late last Thursday and has been turning out an average of 1400 barrels into the tanks every day since. The well is beamed down as far as possible.

Development between Lomita and Torrance, and in Lomita, stimulated to a fever pitch by the Midway Northern producer, increased rather than abated this week.

Each day has seen one or more new derricks mounting upward. Wednesday night eight new derricks in the immediate vicinity of the Midway Northern and Chanslor Canfield Torrance No. 8 were silhouetted against the sky.

Boilers Arrive

Boilers are arriving and rigs going up in a rush of construction that is unprecedented in the Torrance field.

The Chanslor Canfield company this week took out building permits for the erection of four derricks on the old Redondo road. Two of these derricks are already up, and foundations are going down for the others.

The next two weeks will see at least eight wells spudded in, with more to follow a rapidly as workmen can build derricks and rig up.

First in Lomita

The Fortuna Oil company will be the first to sink the drill in Lomita soil. The company's well on Acacia street is rigging up and will be spudded in within eight days. Through a misunderstanding it was

announced last week that this well was a Peterson-Barker well. In reality it belongs to the Fortuna Oil company, of which R. W. Edens is president. Mr. Edens is also interested in the Peterson-Barker syndicate, but there is no other connection between the two concerns.

Eight Are Up

Along the old Redondo road the following companies have derricks completed, or nearly so: Petroleum Midway company, 2; C. C. M. O., 2; Getty, Petroleum Securities company (Doheny), Selby-Root, Superior Oil company, 1 each. This makes a total of eight derricks already up.

Four more will go up immediately—two for the C. C. M. O. and one each for the Sentinel Oil company and the Midway Northern. This will make twelve drilling wells for the vicinity in the near future.

PETERSON-BARKER PLAN TO CEMENT OFF AT 3881 FEET

Interest in the Peterson-Barker well was intense this week when several residents of Torrance asserted they saw oil spout up eight feet last Sunday.

Officials of the syndicate this week denied to The Herald the truth of this statement. They asserted, however, that the drill is down 3881 feet; that an 8 1/2-inch casing is stuck at that level; that the oil which has been seen circulating in reality oil that has been used

in an effort to loosen the casing. R. W. Edens said that the well would be cemented at 3881 feet at the top of a "brown shale formation."

"We will cement off," he said, "because it is inadvisable to carry the water string down any farther." Enthusiastic reports of the showing of the well persisted all week. The most persistent is that which insists that heavy gas pressure was encountered Sunday.

STANDARD SPUDS IN FIRST WELL IN EASTERN SECTION OF FIELD, WEST OF MAIN ST.

Standard spudded in Dominguez No. 1 Thursday and was down several hundred feet Thursday afternoon. This well is located southeast of Torrance and is regarded as highly important. A producer in this area would prove up a vast territory and add considerable to the knowledge of the structure of the entire field.

South of the Dominguez No. 1 the Sentinel Oil company's derrick is up and equipment on the job. This

well will be spudded in within two weeks.

With the Standard and Sentinel drilling in this new territory, the Shell company is preparing to rig up a little farther east in the Key stone district, but west of Harbor boulevard. These three wells will be watched closely by the entire oil industry.

Keystone No. 1 is drilling again around 1300 feet. Considerable gas is being encountered, it is asserted.

DEATH CHEATS SISTERS IN LONG EXPECTED REUNION WHEN MRS. BURKHART DIES

The first extended vacation in the life of Mrs. Bertha Spencer, who is here from Ohio, has been tinged with grief at the death of her sister, Mrs. Fred Burkhart, who passed away last Thursday.

For years it had been the desire of Mrs. Burkhart to entertain her sister in California. Mrs. Spencer never had been outside of Ohio. Not long ago Mrs. Burkhart was delighted to learn that her sister would come to visit her in July and August.

But the happy reunion was not

to be. While Mrs. Spencer was on the train between Ohio and California Mrs. Burkhart passed away. Mrs. Burkhart died Thursday, and Mrs. Spencer arrived Saturday.

Mr. Burkhart, remembering the plans his wife had made for the entertainment of her sister, has concluded that it would please Mrs. Burkhart to know that these plans are being carried out. So he feels that in showing Mrs. Spencer the wonders of California he is doing what his wife would have wanted him to do.